into a plurality of frequency bands such that bandwidths of the bands are broader for progressively higher frequency bands and each frequency band has a corresponds energy level setting an allowable noise level on a band-by-band basis in accordance with the energy level of each frequency band, including setting the allowable noise level for a given energy level progressively higher for progressively higher frequencies, and quantizing the components of each band with a number of this corresponding to a difference in level between the energy of each frequency band and the preset allowable noise level, including adjusting the number of bits allocated upon quantizing according to the allowable noise level.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 4-8 have been added hereby.

This application is a division under 37 CFR 1.53(b) of Application Serial No. 08/747,910 filed November 12, 1996, which is a division of application Serial No. 07/600,818 filed October 22, 1990 now U.S. Patent No. 5,640,458 issued June 17, 1997.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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JHM:dmcd